

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Special Meeting  
February 15, 2006  
Fish and Game Headquarters  
Boise, ID**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Steven Huffaker; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Jim Unsworth, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife; Roger Fuhrman, Chief, Bureau of Communications; Sharon Kiefer, Legislative Liaison; Steve Barton, Assistant to the Director; Jim Lau, Chief, Bureau of Administration; and Mary Boyer, Administrative Assistant. Dave Parrish, Magic Valley Regional Supervisor and Gregg Losinski, Regional Conservation Educator representing the Upper Snake Region participated by telephone.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cameron Wheeler at 8:00 a.m. with Commissioners Alex Irby, Wayne Wright, Gary Power, Marcus Gibbs, John Watts and Tony McDermott.

**LEGISLATION**

**Legislative Update**

Sharon Kiefer, Legislative Liaison briefed Commissioners on the following legislative bills. Legislative Analysis sheets (Appendix 39, Exhibit 24) were sent to Commissioners via email.

**SB1283 Senior License** amends existing law relating to fish and game licenses to reduce the senior combination license fee. SB1283 is on the agenda for the Senate Resources and Environment Committee today February 15, 2006. Commissioners discussed and approved the draft testimony letter (Appendix 39, Exhibit 24) prepared by staff to be presented at today's committee meeting.

**(06-12) Commissioner Irby moved and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to maintain the fee structure that the Department has in place and in the future work on getting the Senior and Junior license closer together. The Commission does not support SB1283. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

**Senate Joint Resolution 106**

Senate Joint Resolution 106 replaces SJR 105. This piece of legislation would create a new constitutional amendment after an electorate vote. It does not replace or directly amend existing law. It would be a constitutional amendment establishing the right to hunt, fish and trap. There is only a single word change between SJR 105 and SJR 106 in the second paragraph regarding water right appropriations. This was based on an

Attorney General's opinion that raised some concerns about implicating water appropriations. It did not deal directly with the hunting and fishing or trapping part. SJR 106 is not scheduled for a hearing at this time. Director Huffaker suggested that if the Department is called to testify before next week's conference call, the Department will follow the IAFWA analysis sheet to use as a basis for testimony. The Commission is not ready to take an official position on SJR 106 at this time. The Commission would like to have more information provided to them regarding SJR 106.

Commissioner Watts left the call at 8:20.

**Additional Updates:**

Director Huffaker stated that SB1358 and SB1359 regarding domestic cervidae have been pulled and returned to the sponsor of the bills.

**Department analysis sheets are being prepared for the following bills and are currently not any calendar:**

**SB1385**

Amends existing law to revise provisions relating to fish and game licenses for disabled persons; to provide for persons certified as permanently disabled by physicians; and to require the Department of Fish and Game to maintain a record of those with permanent disability.

Ms. Kiefer stated the letter to Senator's Shawn Keough, Gerry Sweet and Representative George Eskridge regarding the findings from the Commission's subcommittee meetings on defining eligibility for disability hunting and fishing licenses was sent. Commissioners will be receiving their copy in the mail.

**SB1391**

Amends existing law relating to fish and game to provide that certain children with life threatening medical conditions participating in a special hunt are not required to be licensed; and to provide for the issuance of free permits or tags for use by minor children who have life threatening medical conditions; to authorize rulemaking relating to the issuance of free permits and tags; and to define a term.

**SB1387**

This legislation amends Title 36 of Idaho Code to increase the statute of limitations for poaching violations involving the unlawful take of big game animals, caribou or grizzly bears, from two years to five years.

**SB1386**

Amends existing law to provide that a prosecution for misdemeanors under the provision of the Fish and Game Code must be commenced by the issuance of a citation or filing of a complaint within five years after its commission for unlawfully purchasing, possessing or using any license, tag or permit by any person who does not reside in the state of Idaho at the time of purchase.

Director Huffaker stated that both SB1387 and SB1386 are supported by the Citizens Against Poaching and will be beneficial to this program.

#### **HB640**

HB640 amends existing law relating to fish and game to revise provisions relating to the transfer of moneys into the Animal Damage Control Fund. The Department will transfer \$100,000 in a one time transfer instead of two \$50,000 payments to the Animal Damage Control Fund allowing the Commission to give direction on how the funds will be spent.

#### **HB 545**

Commissioner McDermott had a question regarding HB545. Ms. Kiefer stated that this was a normal process for adjudication and that Cindy Robertson, Staff Biologist is working on this piece of legislation.

HB545 adds to and amends existing law relating to water to provide for Northern Idaho water rights adjudication; to revise fee provisions for filing notice of claims with the Director of the Department of Water Resources; to provide legislative findings relating to accomplished transfers and the public interest regarding Northern Idaho adjudications; to provide that certain changes of place of use, points of diversion, nature or purpose of use, or period of use of a water right may be claimed in the Northern Idaho adjudications; and to provide for objections to recommendations for specified accomplished changes.

Director Huffaker will draft a letter for Commission signature to Dale Bosworth, Chief of the Forest Service, outlining some of the problems with the Forest Service's decision not to grant a categorical exclusion on the Department's application to land helicopters in designated wilderness to radio collar wolves. Commissioners will discuss the contents of the draft letter at the March meeting. Commissioners would like copies of the letter to go to the Idaho Congressional delegation when approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.